

Steve Stolte, President of the Board, was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2011 and has served as a commissioner ever since. A graduate of The Ohio State University, Steve was Union County Engineer for nearly a quarter-century and Marysville City Engineer prior to that. He was named Ohio County Engineer of the Year in 1996 and received the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's William H. Anderson Excellence in Public Service Award in 2019.

Madam Speaker, the people of Union County will gather for an open house on December 17 to celebrate Charles's and Steve's retirement. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I am proud to join in the accolades to them for their devotion to public service. We wish them and their families every success as they move to a new chapter in their lives.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 6395,
WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 6395, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021.

I'd like to thank my colleague, Chairman ADAM SMITH, for his consistent efforts to include key House provisions in this year's NDAA conference report. I was very pleased that the provisions which the Congressional Black Caucus led that calls for the renaming of Confederate military bases made it into the final bill. There is a dangerous and hurtful legacy of white supremacy in this country, and there is no place for the memorialization of the historical figures that perpetuated it, especially on our military bases. I'm pleased that the CBC and House Democrats successfully kept this important provision in the final text of the bill.

However, the FY 21 NDAA continues our legacy of wasteful military spending and investing in war rather than peace. This legislation provides \$732 billion in discretionary spending, nearly the exact same number as last year's number, which was the largest number ever authorized.

Especially as we fight back a catastrophic pandemic and public health crisis, Congress should not be rewarding the Pentagon with a massive spending increase. I cannot support a bill that funds the Pentagon at a level far beyond what is necessary for our national defense, turning our backs on the serious human need we face today.

For these reasons, I am unable to support the NDAA conference report and will vote no.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SHAWN
FARRITOR

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of Shawn Farritor. Shawn was born in June 1967 with a birth defect called transposition of the great arteries, meaning the two main arteries leaving his heart were reversed. Shawn overcame these challenges to become an attorney and published author, and it inspired him to spend his life helping others. Shawn received a double lung and heart transplant in December 2019 and spent a year fighting to recover before leaving us in September 2020. He was born and raised in Ravenna, Nebraska, and spent his professional career in Grand Island and Hastings.

Spending his professional career providing legal support to those who needed it most, Shawn made a big effort to learn the language and culture of those he served and was known as someone who "would actually listen." He was a literacy council volunteer, United Way professional partner, and served on the Friendship House board of directors as Vice President. He was also an active supporter of survivors of the transposition procedure he underwent. For his contributions to communities in the Third District, Shawn is an honorable mention recipient of the 2020 Innovation and Adaptation Recognition.

Shawn is missed by all especially his wife, stepson, and family. He was beloved by all for his big heart and passion for helping others. We are grateful for Shawn and proud of everything he has done for many Nebraskans.

RECOGNIZING UNIVERSAL CITY
POLICE CHIEF GARY SPEER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and service of Universal City Police Chief Gary Speer. Chief Speer has retired after 40 years in law enforcement and 36 years of service with the Universal City Police Department.

Chief Speer is an individual who consistently displayed the utmost commitment to his community. He began his career in law enforcement in 1981 as a reserve officer for Bexar County Precinct 3. He eventually served in a few different departments before joining the Universal City Police Department as a patrolman in 1984. Over time he steadily rose through the ranks. He achieved the rank of Sergeant in 1989, Lieutenant in 1997, Assistant Chief in 2001, and soon earned the position of Chief in 2007. During this time, he was also honored with several awards including Police Officer of the Year by the Lions Club and Police Officer of the Year for the State of Texas by the American Legion.

I have worked with Chief Speer over the years and witnessed first-hand the essential work he has done to keep his community safe. He cared deeply about the people he served

and consistently showed what it means to put the well-being of others first. The dedication that he has shown to us all should be a constant reminder of how we should be in our daily lives. This devotion to others is also consistent with the history of his family. Chief Speer's Grandfather, father, and brother all served their communities as members of law enforcement.

In addition to the hard work and dedication he showed as a member of the law enforcement community, he is also an active member of his community. He is a member of Shriners International, the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and its Scramble Committee, the Texas Police Association, and the Texas Police Chiefs Association. But most importantly, he is a devoted father and grandfather.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of heroes like Chief Speer and all the individuals who risk their lives each day to keep us safe. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Chief Speer.

HBCU PROPELLING AGENCY RELATIONSHIPS TOWARDS A NEW ERA OF RESULTS FOR STUDENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus and an original co-sponsor, I rise in support of the bipartisan S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act" (HBCU PARTNERS Act), which will strengthen partnerships between federal agencies and the country's more than 100 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The HBCU PARTNERS Act requires federal agencies with relevant grants and programs to undertake annual planning and coordinate their efforts to support and expand HBCU participation in those programs.

The bill strengthens the rigor and transparency requirements of existing law by requiring that agencies track their progress toward past goals and share their plans with Congress.

In addition, it codifies the White House Board of Advisors on HBCUs, ensuring an ongoing avenue for the institutions' priorities and policy concerns to be raised.

As a strong proponent of the preservation of our nation's HBCU's and MSI's, I support this bill because our students deserve to receive an outstanding education and have access to equal resources, regardless of the institution they choose to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that one of the greatest HBCUs in the country, Texas Southern University, is located in my congressional district.

Texas Southern University has a rich history with nine academic units, 1,000 dedicated staff members, and over 9,200 esteemed students.

Like most of my HBCU Caucus colleagues, I have worked closely with my local HBCU to provide funding and resources needed to enable them to fulfill their mission of educating the next generation of social engineers and conducting research programs addressing issues of major concern to the African American community.

As Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection in the 111th Congress, I authored the legislation to establish a Transportation Security Center of Excellence at TSU and worked to help TSU secure \$1.2 million in funding over four years from the Department of Homeland Security for this Center of Excellence.

One of my proudest accomplishments as a member of Congress is my success in working with federal officials in the Clinton Administration to settle the lawsuit against TSU that had been pending for more than 23 years.

I was proud to spearhead the initiative that brought more than \$13 million in financial aid relief for the students and campus of Texas Southern University.

I also worked with TSU administrators to initiate digital archive projects to preserve the records of two of its most distinguished alumni, the legendary Barbara Jordan and Mickey Leland, both of whom preceded me as the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas.

I was pleased to facilitate a partnership between Comcast and TSU's School of Communication to provide scholarships and internships to TSU students and in-kind marketing services to the university.

I also worked to secure funding needed to establish the Center for Transportation, Training and Research in the TSU College of Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, HBCU's have played a critical role in American history.

As the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated: "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

HBCUs do not just educate—HBCUs have and will continue to fill an important role in education opportunity and engagement for millions of young people from diverse backgrounds.

As leaders of this country, the success and expansion of HBCUs and minority-serving institutions falls on our shoulders and we must act swiftly to ensure that these institutions are protected.

In an effort to maintain the legacy and educational quality of our historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions, we must act urgently to ensure the proper relationships are established between all of these institutions and the Department of Homeland Security.

I ask all members to join me in voting for S. 461, the "HBCU Propelling Agency Relationships Towards a New Era of Results for Students Act."

IN HONOR OF AZALEA CHARITIES, INCORPORATED

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Azalea Charities Incorporated, an all volunteer charitable organization located in the First District with a dual mission of providing support to Aid to Wounded Warriors and youth and special need projects. Over the last 22 years Azalea Charities Inc., has provided over 5 million dollars of support to these two mission areas, not only here in the First District, but across the nation as well as internationally. The motto of Azalea Charities is Working Together-Giving Together.

Azalea Charities' commitment to the ideals that America stands for, their good citizenship, self-sacrifice and longevity of service are a testament to all that is best about our country. From raising funds by partnering with local corporations and businesses to participating in events such as the Marine Corps Marathon and conducting their hallmark Pro Am Azalea Classic Invitational golf tournament, Azalea Charities dedication to service is to be commended.

After two decades, Azalea Charities Inc. is bringing their charitable era to an end.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the men and women of Azalea Charities for their service to community over these past 22 years of dedicated selfless service to the citizens of our great country.

IN HONOR OF RICH GARBARINO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend and colleague Rich Garbarino: retiring from the city council of South San Francisco after 18 years and after a total of 38 years of service to the people of South San Francisco. Rich has been a steady voice of progress and leadership in the city.

Councilmember Garbarino sat on the parks commission for 18 years which resulted in new parks being developed throughout the city including Summit, Orange and Cypress parks that were constructed or thoroughly renovated.

Initial work on Centennial Way, a lengthy trail built to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city, began while Rich was a commissioner. Construction concluded years later after he joined the council. He was an enthusiastic advocate over all these years. Trail construction costs were entirely defrayed through donations.

When Rich began in public service, the east side of the city consisted of giant, abandoned steel mills worthy of any devastated war zone. As he completes his service, South San Francisco has become the biotechnology capital of the world. The steel mills were long ago swept aside to be replaced by Genentech's sprawling campuses of billions of dollars of investment and those of many other companies. One is presently researching the aging proc-

ess with the hope of defeating it, while another is tackling sickle cell anemia. A third grows specialized mosquitoes aimed at stopping the spread of Dengue fever. A fourth is farming inside a warehouse using vertical fields, robots and artificial intelligence to produce vegetables that are so tasty they fly off the shelves at supermarkets. Rich Garbarino and his colleagues encouraged tens of billions of dollars in investment in the east side through their welcoming messages to the biotechnology industry. This was transformational.

During his time in office, Rich worked hard in our State Capitol to represent other cities through the League of California Cities. He explained the need for local control over zoning and has long supported housing along the transit corridors of South San Francisco. Hundreds of apartments and condominiums have been created in just the past few years, most located along the rail and bus lines that lace South San Francisco.

He was a big supporter of Measure W, a 1/2 cent sales tax approved by voters. As these industries and housing spring up in South San Francisco, the need for more police and a new municipal center featuring a police station and library became apparent. It's paid for in part by Measure W.

Over just the past 20 years, Rich Garbarino took on nearly 40 different community service commitments including serving on the public safety policy committee, President of the League of California Cities, a member of ad hoc committees on gun control and gang violence, president of his neighborhood homeowner's association, and serving as an advisor to the president of San Francisco State University. Some respond to a call for volunteers as if a recent shoulder separation prevented them from raising their hand. Rich has persistent muscle spasms that compel his hand to fly upward.

Rich and his wife Elaine have three children, Gina, Rich Jr. and Andrea, and eight grandchildren. He is a quintessential family man, a great father and grandfather. This is also how he views his city. In Rich's eyes, every resident of South San Francisco is part of a big family, and their needs are his passion.

Some men see a city and mourn what has passed. Rich Garbarino sees his city and wonders about all that will someday come to pass. He's proud that the cure to cancer will likely be discovered in South San Francisco. He marvels that housing now being built is just the start of what's planned. He knows the downtown is on the cusp of a revival and that residents will grow safer in the future as they work towards their common good.

Madam Speaker, while the city's residents will no longer have Rich Garbarino to watch over their best interests, they have the path that he helped lay down to carry them into the future. Godspeed to the pathbreakers, and to their leader in chief, Rich Garbarino, a man who devoted his years in office to create a tomorrow for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House on December 7